

REMARKS

Claims 1-53, 59-61, 63-66 and 78-86 are pending. Claims 4, 19, 35 and 36 are hereby amended as indicated above. Claims 5 and 36 are hereby canceled as redundant to claims 6 and 37, respectively, in light of amendments provided herein.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-53, 59, 82, 83, and 85 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph for indefiniteness. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the phrase "modulate the relative rate" found in claims 1, 30, 59, 82, 83, and 85 requires clarification, especially the terms "modulate" and "relative." In response, Applicants believe that this phrase is very clear in view of common definitions of the words "modulate" and "relative," and especially in the context of the claimed invention and the disclosure of the present application, as filed. Applicants' position presented below references claim 1, but is equally applicable to the rejection as applied to claims 30, 59, 82, 83, and 85.

As set forth in the specification of the present application (hereinafter, the "Specification"), multiplexed PCR reactions are PCR reactions in which two or more single amplification reactions are carried out in the same reaction vessel. As such, the two or more amplification reactions compete for resources, such as nucleotides and polymerase enzyme, present in the reaction vessel. If the reaction is not balanced, one PCR reaction of the two or more reactions within the same reaction vessel may out-compete other reactions within the same reaction vessel for necessary resources, resulting in disproportionate amplification reactions. Disproportionate amplification reactions do not accurately quantify the two or more target mRNA or DNA species. This point is made in the specification of the present patent application (see, for example, paragraphs [0052] through [0061] of the Specification and ABI PRISM 7700 Sequence Detection System User Bulletin #5, "Multiplex PCR with TaqMan VIC Probes", Applied Biosystems (1998/2001) (see, page 5, for example), which is

cited in paragraph [0052] of the Specification and which is of record in the present application.

The word “modulate” has a well-accepted definition that is entirely unambiguous, especially in the context of the present invention. Appendix A, attached hereto, provides dictionary definitions of “modulate” identified from a search of www.onelook.com. Various definitions are as follows:

“to adjust to or keep in proper measure or proportion” (Merriam-Webster OnLine);

“exert a controlling influence on; regulate” (Compact Oxford English Dictionary, www.askoxford.com);

“to adjust or adapt to a particular measure or proportion” (Wordsmythe);

“To adjust or adapt to a certain proportion; regulate or temper” (The American Heritage dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition (2000), from www.bartleby.com).

“to vary the strength, quality, or amount of (something)” (Cambridge Dictionary of American English); or

“to change something, such as an action or a process, to make it more suitable for its situation (Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary).

Likewise the word “relative” has a well-accepted definition that is entirely unambiguous, especially in the context of the present invention and claims; referring to the comparative rate of amplification of two amplicons in a multiplexed PCR reaction. Appendix B, attached hereto, provides dictionary definitions of the adjective “relative” identified from a search of www.onelook.com. Various definitions are as follows:

“measured or considered in comparison with each other or with something else” (Encarta);

“considered in relation or in proportion to something else” (Compact Oxford English Dictionary);

“in relation; relating” (Wordsmythe); or

“as judged or measured in comparison or proportion with something else”
(Cambridge Dictionary of American English).

In light of these common definitions of “modulate” and “relative,” there is absolutely no ambiguity in the phrase “to modulate the relative rate of production of a first amplicon by a first primer set and a second amplicon by a second primer set during the first and second amplification stages,” or like phrases found in claims 30, 59, 82, 83 and 85 in the context of the claims of the present application, the Specification and/or the prior art of record.

Claim 1 reads:

A multiplex PCR method, comprising the step of conducting a PCR amplification on a DNA sample in a PCR reaction mixture, wherein the PCR amplification is conducted in a first amplification stage and a second amplification stage, each amplification stage comprising one or more PCR cycles and each PCR cycle comprises a denaturing step, an annealing step and an elongation step that may be conducted at the same temperature as the annealing step, wherein the PCR amplification of the second amplification stage is conducted under different reaction conditions than the PCR amplification of the first amplification stage ***to modulate the relative rate of production of a first amplicon by a first primer set and a second amplicon by a second primer set during the first and second amplification stages*** (emphasis added).

Claims 30, 59, 82, 83 and 85 contain essentially, if not exactly the same language shown in bold-italic. As follows from the definitions and discussion, and, from the as-filed present application:

1. A PCR reaction produces an amplicon at a specific rate, as exemplified in the present application and throughout the literature at the time of filing of the present application. As a non-limiting example, C_t is one measure of the rate of accumulation of an amplicon.

2. A multiplexed reaction contains two or more PCR reactions, which produce two or more amplicons, which also is well-established in the art at the time of filing of the present application.
3. Each of the two or more PCR reactions in a multiplexed reaction produces its amplicon product at a rate relative to (see definitions of "relative" above) the rate of production of other amplicon product(s) in a given multiplexed reaction, as also shown in the present application and as recognized in the art at the time of filing of the present application. As a non-limiting example, each PCR reaction in a multiplexed reaction generates its own C_t (see, for example, Figures 2, 4, 12-16 and 18 of the present application).
4. To "modulate the relative rate of production" of two different amplicons in a multiplexed PCR reaction therefore means, in essence, to regulate, control, adjust, vary, *etc.* (see definitions of "modulate" provided above) the rate of production of a first amplicon by a first primer set relative to the rate of amplification of a second amplicon by a second primer set. This is described throughout the Specification and is what is claimed.

For the reasons set forth above, the meaning of the phrase "modulate the relative rate" is perfectly clear. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-53, 59, 82, 83, and 85 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph for indefiniteness.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 5, 19, 35 and 36 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph for indefiniteness for recitation of the phrase, "derivative thereof." Applicants hereby amend claims 4, 19 and 35 to remove the phrase "derivative thereof" and hereby cancel claims 5 and 36 as redundant to claims 6 and 37, respectively once the phrase "derivative thereof" is removed from claims 5 and 36.

The Examiner has rejected claim 37 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph for indefiniteness for ending with the word "and" with no punctuation. Applicants hereby amend claim 37 to correct this typographic error.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants believe that claims 1-4, 6-35, 37-53, 59-61, 63-66 and 78-86 define over the prior art of record and are in proper form for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-4, 6-35, 37-53, 59-61, 63-66 and 78-86.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hirshman', is written over a horizontal line.

Jesse A. Hirshman
Registration No. 40,016
Attorney for Applicants

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2312
Telephone: (412) 355-8966
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501
E-mail: jhirshman@kl.com



Merriam-Webster OnLine

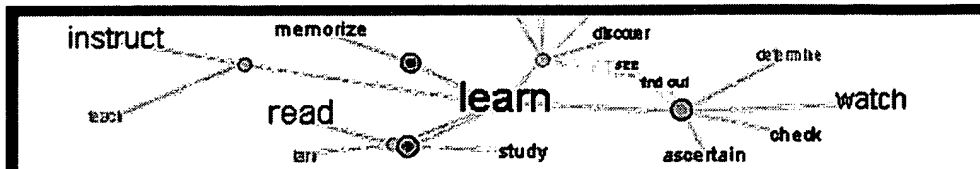
Merriam-Webster **FOR KIDS**

Encyclopædia **BRITANNICA**

Merriam-Webster **ONLINE**

Merriam-Webster **COLLEGIATE**

Merriam-Webster **UNABRIDGED**



VISUAL THESAURUS

learn | [LOOK IT UP](#)

HOME

PREMIUM SERVICES ▼

M-WCollegiate.com
M-WUnabridged.com
Britannica.com
Multi-User Licenses

DOWNLOADS ▼

WORD OF THE DAY ▼

WORD GAMES ▼

WORD FOR THE WISE ▼

ONLINE STORE ▼

HELP ▼

Merriam-Webster Inc.
Company Information

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

One entry found for **modulate**.

Thesaurus

Merriam-Webster Online

Ⓐ Dictionary

Ⓐ Thesaurus

[Go](#)



[Find](#)

Main Entry: **mod·u·late**

Pronunciation: 'mä-j&-"lAt

Function: *verb*

Inflected Form(s): **-lat·ed; -lat·ing**

Etymology: Latin *modulatus*, past participle of *modulari* to play, sing, from *modulus* small measure, rhythm, diminutive of *modus* measure -- more at [METE](#)

transitive senses

1 : to tune to a key or pitch

2 : to adjust to or keep in proper measure or proportion :

TEMPER

3 : to vary the amplitude, frequency, or phase of (a carrier wave or a light wave) for the transmission of intelligence (as by radio); *also* : to vary the velocity of electrons in an electron beam

intransitive senses

1 : to play or sing with **modulation**

2 : to pass from one musical key into another by means of intermediary chords or notes that have some relation to both keys

3 : to pass gradually from one state to another

- **mod·u·la·tor** /-"lA-t&r/ *noun*

- **mod·u·la·to·ry** /-l&-"tOr-E, -"tor-/ *adjective*

For **More Information on "modulate"** go to [Britannica.com](#)

Get the **Top 10 Search Results for "modulate"**

Palm & Pocket PC

Browse and download Merriam-Webster e-books and games for Palm and Pocket PC PDAs and Mobile Phones

[Merriam-Webster Online Store](#)

Handheld Collegiate

Now you can take the Eleventh Edition with you anywhere as Franklin's new Speaking Electronic Handheld!

[Franklin.com/estore](#)

**Merriam-Webster
Collegiate.com**
14-day Free Trial

Pronunciation Symbols

[Products](#)

[Premium Services](#)

[Company Info](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Advertising Info](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)



AskOxford.com
Oxford dictionaries. Passionate about languages



SEARCH

Entire AskOxford Site



HOME · SHOP · EDUCATION · PRESS ROOM · CONTACT US ·
ASK THE EXPERTS · BETTER WRITING · WORLD OF WORDS · GAMES · GLOBAL ENGLISH · FOREIGN
LANGUAGES

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Order now to save £1000

SELECT
VIEW



You are currently in the UK view

Compact Oxford English Dictionary

modulate

• **verb** 1 exert a controlling influence on; regulate. 2 vary the strength, tone, or pitch of (one's voice). 3 adjust the amplitude or frequency of (an oscillation or signal). 4 Music change from one key to another.

— DERIVATIVES **modulation** noun **modulator** noun.

— ORIGIN Latin *modulari* 'measure'.

- [Ask The Experts](#)
- [Better Writing](#)
- [World of Words](#)
- [Games](#)
- [Global English](#)
- [Foreign Languages](#)

LINKS

- [Language Links](#)
- [OUP.com](#)
- [OED Online](#)
- [Oxford Reference Online](#)
- [ELT magazine](#)

[Perform another search of the Compact Oxford English Dictionary](#)



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

PRIVACY POLICY AND LEGAL NOTICE Content and Graphics ©
Copyright Oxford University Press, 2004. All rights reserved.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Not logged in [[register](#)]

Username

Password

☐ Log in [need help?](#)

Wordsmyth

Dictionary-Thesaurus

Look up the word...

☒ exact

☐ broad

"dog" matches "guide dog"

☐ spelled-like

"dawg" matches "dog"

[advanced search](#)

[How to Search](#)

Helpful hints for using
Wordsmyth.

Wordsmyth Children's Dictionary

Look up the word...

[Learn more](#)

About the Wordsmyth Children's
Dictionary-Thesaurus with Word
Explorer

**You are not currently logged in.
Already registered? Then log in now at left.**

Beginning soon, only registered visitors to Wordsmyth will see some of our best features. Any features or pages that you see on this page marked in orange will **only** be available to registered users. If you **register now** this message and color will disappear, and ensure that you won't miss any of the unique Wordsmyth features you've come to enjoy.

modulate

[Browse the words alphabetically around "modulate"](#)
[See entries that contain "modulate"](#)

Syllables:

mod-u-late

Parts of speech:

[transitive verb](#) , [intransitive verb](#)



Part of Speech

transitive verb



Pronunciation

[ma jE 1et](#)

[mad yE 1et](#)

Inflected Forms

[modulated](#), [modulating](#), [modulates](#)

Definition

1. to adjust or adapt to a particular measure or proportion.

Synonyms

[adjust \(2\)](#) , [adapt](#) , [regulate \(2\)](#)

Crossref. Syn.

[proportion](#)

Similar Words

[vary](#) , [alter](#) , [modify](#) , [accommodate](#)

Definition

2. to vary the loudness, pitch, intensity, or tone of; esp. soften or tone down.

Example

When she realized the old woman was not deaf, she modulated her voice.

Synonyms

[adjust \(1\)](#) , [moderate \(1\)](#)

Crossref. Syn.

[tone](#) , [tone down](#)

Similar Words

[mute](#) , [tune](#) , [tone down](#) {[tone \(PHR\)](#)} , [soften](#) , [lower¹](#) , [subdue](#)



Order now

Order now

Visit the [store](#) for more...

Definition

Synonyms

Similar Words

Definition

Synonyms

Similar Words

3. to vary the frequency, amplitude, phase, or the like of (an electromagnetic wave).

tune (2,4)

adjust , fine-tune

4. to tune to a particular musical key or pitch.

tune (1)

attune

Related Words

regulate



Part of Speech

intransitive verb

Definition

1. to shift from one musical key to another, as through chord progressions.

Definition

2. to vary the frequency, amplitude, phase, or the like of an electromagnetic wave.

Related Words

tone

Derived Forms

modulability, n. ; modulative, adj. ; modulator, n. ; modulatory, adj.

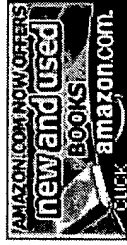
Tell a Friend

Send Feedback

Having a problem?

Suggest a Word

©2002 Wordsmyth



VERIZON ONLINE DSL
WITH MSN® PREMIUM

Starting at \$29.95/month
Order online and get your first month FREE.
Details

verizon

Bartleby.com

Great Books Online

Search Dictionary

Reference Verse Fiction Nonfiction

Go

Home Subjects Titles Authors

Encyclopedia Dictionary Thesaurus Quotations English Usage

Reference > American Heritage® > Dictionary

< modularized modulation >

CONTENTS · INDEX · ILLUSTRATIONS · BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

modulate

SYLLABICATION: mod·u·late

PRONUNCIATION: mŏj'ə-lāt'

VERB: Inflected forms: **mod·u·lat·ed**, **mod·u·lat·ing**, **mod·u·lates**

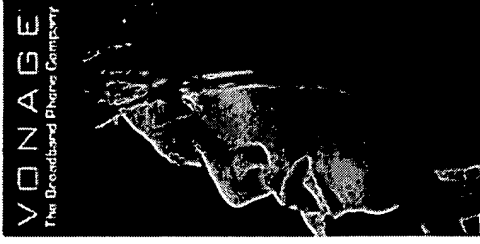
TRANSITIVE
VERB: 1. To adjust or adapt to a certain proportion; regulate or temper. 2. To change or vary the pitch, intensity, or tone of (one's voice or a musical instrument, for example). 3. *Electronics* a. To vary the frequency, amplitude, phase, or other characteristic of (electromagnetic waves). b. To vary (electron velocity) in an electron beam.

INTRANSITIVE
VERB: *Music* To move from one key or tonality to another by means of a melody or chord progression.

ETYMOLOGY: Latin *modulārī*, *modulāt-*, to measure off, to regulate, from *modulus*, diminutive of *modus*, measure. See **med-** in Appendix I.

OTHER FORMS:
mod' u·la·bil' i·ty —NOUN

mod' u·la' tive, **mod' u·la·to' ry** (-lə-tŏr' ē, -tŏr' ē) —ADJECTIVE



Small Business
Unlimited Plan.
FREE calls to
the U.S. and
Canada. Plus a
FREE fax line.

\$49.99
per month

see for yourself ▶

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by the Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

[modularized](#)

[modulation](#)

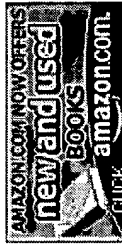
[Click here to download the Dictionary and Thesaurus.](#)

Search Amazon:



[Click here to shop the Bartleby Bookstore.](#)

[Welcome](#) · [Press](#) · [Advertising](#) · [Linking](#) · [Terms of Use](#) · © 2004 Bartleby.com

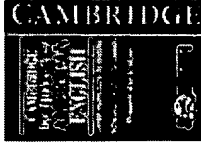


VERIZON ONLINE DSL
WITH MSN® PREMIUM

Starting at \$29.95/month
Order online and get your first month FREE.
Details

verizon

Cambridge Dictionary of American English

 [Look it up](#)


We publish dictionaries for people learning English all around the world

[Find out more...](#)


Search another dictionary...

- ☒ Advanced Learner's
- ☒ Learner's
- ☒ Idioms
- ☒ Phrasal Verbs
- ☒ French / English
- ☒ Spanish / English

Definition

modulate

[Show phonetics]

verb [T]

to vary the strength, quality, or amount of (something)

Teachers modulate the way they work in response to their students' needs.

Modulate your tone of voice when speaking in court.

(from [Cambridge Dictionary of American English](#))

See also...

- ▶ Top 50 Words 2003
- ▶ Cambridge Essential English Dictionary
- ▶ Cambridge International Corpus

Resources

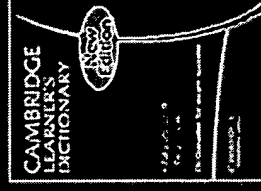
- ▶ Online Activities and Worksheets
- ▶ Cambridge English Language Teaching
- ▶ Data for language researchers

© Cambridge University Press 2004. [Privacy Policy](#)

You can't
have one...



...without
the other



Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary

Look it up


 CAMBRIDGE
ADVANCED
LEARNER'S
DICTIONARY

New

We publish dictionaries for people learning English all around the world

[Find out more...](#)

Buy this
dictionary

Search another dictionary...

- ☒ Learner's
- ☒ American English
- ☒ Idioms
- ☒ Phrasal Verbs
- ☒ French / English
- ☒ Spanish / English

Definition

modulate (CHANGE) [Show phonetics]

verb [T] FORMAL

to change something, such as an action or a process, to make it more suitable for its situation:

An elected committee will meet monthly to modulate the council's energy policy.

modulation [Show phonetics]

noun [C or U] FORMAL

(from [Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary](#))

See also...

- ▶ Top 50 Words 2003
- ▶ Cambridge Essential English Dictionary
- ▶ Cambridge International Corpus

Resources

- ▶ Online Activities and Worksheets
- ▶ Cambridge English Language Teaching
- ▶ Data for language researchers

© Cambridge University Press 2004. [Privacy Policy](#)

Web Sale
Must end 23rd
December



Cambridge is offering substantial discounts on a selection of our titles for a limited period only.





Dictionary

Find

relative

in Dictionary

Click here to search all of MSN Encarta

Quizzes Encarta 2005
Columns On This Day MSN Encarta
Top 10 Lists Guides Worldwide

Advertisement

Dictionary Thesaurus * Translations *



relative

relapse
relapsing fever

relate

related

relation

relational

relational
grammar

relationship

▶ **relative**

relative atomic
mass

relative clause

relative
humidity

relative income
hypothesis

relative
performance
compensation

relative
permeability



rel·a·tive [réllätiv]

adjective

1. comparative: measured or considered in comparison with each other or with something else

• *discussing the relative merits of various methods of transportation*

2. changing with circumstances: not permanently fixed, but having a meaning or value that can only be established in relation to something else and will change according to circumstances or context

• "Big" and "small" are relative terms.

3. dependent on something: depending on or in proportion to something else

• *Payment will be relative to the value of the work done rather than the time taken to do it.*



relative
permissivity
relative pitch



Print Preview

See pronunciation
key

Search for "relative"
in all of MSN Encarta

Download the MSN
Encarta Right-Click
Dictionary

4. connected with something: connected
with or referring to something

- *The lawyers now have most of the data relative to the case.*

5. GRAMMAR referring to previously used
word: used to describe words, especially
pronouns (relative pronouns) or clauses
(relative clauses) that refer to another
word previously used in the same sentence

6. MUSIC having identical key
signatures: used to describe a key that has
the same key signature as another, usually
a minor key with the same sharps and flats
as a major key, or vice versa

noun (plural rel·a·tives)

1. member of family: somebody who
belongs to the same family by birth or
through adoption or marriage

2. thing related to something else: one
thing that is related to something else,
especially a species that has developed
from the same origin as another species

3. GRAMMAR relative word: a relative word,
especially a pronoun, or a relative clause

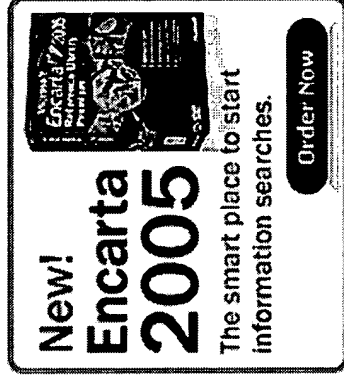
- rel·a·tive·ness *noun*

* Exclusively for MSN Encarta Premium Subscribers. Join Now

Our Partners

- Amazon: Buy books
- ClassesUSA.com: Compare online degrees
- CollegeBound Network: ReadySetGo
- hq|education: Career education
- Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions
- The Princeton Review

Encarta 2005 Is Here!



Also on Encarta

- Compare top online degrees: Nursing, bachelor's, MBA, and more
- Getting in: College admissions advice
- Encarta's 2004 election guide

Also on MSN

- Days of Deals 2004: Special prices on MSN Shopping
- Prepare for a dream job: From criminal justice to culinary arts
- Switch to MSN in 3 easy steps

MSN Shopping

Encarta® World English Dictionary [North American Edition] © & (P)2004
Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Developed for Microsoft by
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

More Links from Our Advertisers

SAT Prep	Tutoring
Distance Learning	Online MBA
Education Online	Textbook

Try MSN Internet Software for FREE!

MSN Home | **My MSN** | **Hotmail** | **Shopping** | **Money** | **People & Chat**

©2004 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Terms of Use Advertise TRUSTe Approved Privacy Statement GetNetWise

Feedback



Jansport® Half Pint Backpack
\$19.99 Sale \$14.99

JCPenney

More Backpacks



Compact Oxford English Dictionary

relative

/rɛlətɪv/

• **adjective** **1** considered in relation or in proportion to something else. **2** existing or possessing a characteristic only in comparison to something else: *months of relative calm ended in April.* **3** Grammar (of a pronoun, determiner, or adverb) referring to an expressed or implied antecedent and attaching a subordinate clause to it, e.g. *which.* **4** Grammar (of a clause) attached to an antecedent by a relative word.

• **noun** **1** a person connected by blood or marriage. **2** a species related to another by common origin.

— PHRASES **relative to** **1** compared with or in relation to. **2** concerning.

- [Ask The Experts](#)
- [Better Writing](#)
- [World of Words](#)
- [Games](#)
- [Global English](#)
- [Foreign Languages](#)

LINKS

- [Language Links](#)
- [OUP.com](#)
- [OED Online](#)
- [Oxford Reference Online](#)
- [ELT magazine](#)

[Perform another search of the Compact Oxford English Dictionary](#)

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

PRIVACY POLICY AND
LEGAL NOTICE Content
and Graphics ©
Copyright Oxford
University Press, 2004. All
rights reserved.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Not logged in [[register](#)]
Username

Password



[need help?](#)

Wordsmyth

Dictionary-Thesaurus

Look up the word...



☒ exact

☐ broad

"dog" matches "guide dog"

☐ spelled-like

"dawg" matches "dog"

advanced search

How to Search

Helpful hints for using
Wordsmyth.

Wordsmyth Children's Dictionary

Look up the word...



Learn more

About the Wordsmyth Children's
Dictionary-Thesaurus with Word
Explorer

You are not currently logged in.
Already registered? Then log in now at left.

Beginning soon, only registered visitors to Wordsmyth will see some of our best features. Any features or pages that you see on this page marked in orange will **only** be available to registered users. If you **register now** this message and color will disappear, and ensure that you won't miss any of the unique Wordsmyth features you've come to enjoy.

relative

Browse the words alphabetically around "relative"

See entries that contain "relative"

Syllables:

rel-a-tive

Parts of speech:

noun , adjective



Part of Speech



Pronunciation

noun

reh lē tihv

Definition

1. a person who is related to others through blood or marriage.

Synonyms

kin (2)

Crossref. Syn.

relation , kin , kindred

Definition

2. something that is dependent on something else for its specific form or meaning. (Cf. absolute.)

Synonyms

condition (3) , contingency (3)

Definition

3. in grammar, a relative pronoun, adjective, or adverb.

Related Words

people , connection , brother , descendant , cognate , clan , family



Part of Speech

adjective



Order now

Visit the [store](#) for more...

Definition

Synonyms

Similar Words

Definition

Example

Synonyms

Crossref. Syn.

Similar Words

Definition

1. in relation; relating.

comparative (3)

qualified , correlative , compared {compare (vt)}

2. meaningful only in relation to something else.

Some people argue that moral standards are relative. (Cf. absolute.)

dependent (2) , contingent (1) , provisory

comparative

conditional

3. in grammar, denoting or pertaining to a dependent clause or a word that introduces it, as in "She feared anyone whom she didn't understand," in which "whom" is a relative pronoun and "whom she didn't understand" is a relative clause.

Related Words

applicable , analogous , subordinate

Tell a Friend

Send Feedback

Having a problem?

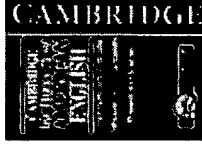
Suggest a Word

©2002 Wordsmyth

Cambridge Dictionary of American English

[Look it up](#)

We publish dictionaries for people learning English all around the world

[Find out more...](#)

[Buy this dictionary](#)

Search another dictionary...

- ☒ Advanced Learner's
- ☒ Learner's
- ☒ Idioms
- ☒ Phrasal Verbs
- ☒ French / English
- ☒ Spanish / English

Definition

relative (COMPARED WITH)

[Show phonetics]

adjective [not gradable]

as judged or measured in comparison with something else

*We considered the **relative merits** of flying to Washington or taking the train.*

Relative to (= Considering) birthweight, the newborns were doing well.

(specialized) *In grammar, a **relative clause** is a clause in a sentence that cannot exist independently, begins with a relative pronoun, and describes a noun that comes before it:*

In the sentence "The movie that we saw was very good," "that we saw" is a relative clause.

(specialized) *In grammar, a **relative pronoun** is a pronoun such as "which," "who," or "that," used to begin a relative clause:*

In the sentence "The movie that we saw was very good," "that" is a relative pronoun.

relatively

[Show phonetics]

adverb [not gradable]

*The stereo was **relatively inexpensive**.*

(from *Cambridge Dictionary of American English*)

See also...

▶ Top 50 Words 2003

▶ Cambridge Essential English Dictionary

Resources

▶ Online Activities and Worksheets

▶ Cambridge English Language Teaching

THE CAMBRIDGE GUIDE TO
ENGLISH USAGE

The NEW
word
on words



▣ The long-awaited
NEW guide to
English usage

▣ Truly international
in its approach

▣ Clear and
accessible to
readers at all levels

◀ ...an authority
unmatched by any
other usage guide ▶
SIDNEY LANDAU

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☒ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.